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Hongkong Daily Press.

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Casks of 375 lbs. net \$4.75 per Cask ex Factory.
Bags of 250 lbs. net \$2.85 per bag ex Factory.
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Hongkong, 14th August, 1903. [a3389]

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Hongkong, 10th March, 1903. [a64]

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Hongkong, 29th April, 1904. [a141]

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Hongkong, 22nd March, 1904. [a309]

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Hongkong, 22nd April, 1904. [a1074]

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Hongkong, 21st December, 1903.

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EXPRESSLY PREPARED
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[a333]

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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

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NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS
Only communications relating to the news columns should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No anonymously signed communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted.

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DEATHS.

On the 17th May, at the Government Civil Hospital, WILLIAM RALPH SEYMOUR, Junior Assistant Master at Queen's College, aged 31 years.

On the 5th May, at 17, Love Lane, Shanghai, ALBERT LEGGINS, infant son of ALBERT WILLIAM and KATHARINE BUCKELL.

On the 5th May, at 14, Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai, EDMUND HENRY GORE BOOTH, third surviving son of the late HENRY GORE BOOTH, second son of Sir ROBERT NEWCOMEN GORE BOOTH, third Baronet, of Finnedale Co., Sligo, Ireland, aged 18 years.

On the 5th May, at 22, Miller Road, Shanghai, HUANG F. EASTMAN, aged 60 years.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DE VILLE ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 19TH MAY, 1904

It will have been seen from the report of the meeting of the Legislative Council on Tuesday that the local Government is satisfied with the present means for extinguishing fires in the City of Victoria. At least, in reply to the Hon. H. E. POLLOCK's question whether this were so, the Colonial Secretary said that the means of extinguishing fire was considered "reasonably sufficient." We doubt whether the public will be as satisfied as the Government, in spite of the latter's confidence. We are not in favour of wild outcry on such a subject as our fire-fighting service, and we have only dealt with the subject in the past in a moderate way. Nevertheless we have witnessed not a few fires here in the dry season, and we cannot admit that "reasonable sufficiency" is the best term to apply to our resources against the danger. We know that it is promised that with the ridermain system's introduction all will be much better, but the ridermain system is not yet introduced, not can it be for a long while. The Colonial Secretary admits that at present, in times of intermittent supply, water is available at adequate pressure only, on an average fifteen minutes after the alarm of fire has been given. That a conflagration

has ample time to gain firm hold in a quarter of an hour is obvious. Many of our readers no doubt have been witnesses to this fact in Hongkong, and have been at fires here where the absence of a timely supply of water has caused a great multiplication of the amount of damage. The Government seems content that this shall remain the case until we have ridermain in working order. The Government is more easily contented than the public. We must, we suppose, take the expert opinion of the authorities on the efficiency of their own fire-engines, but with regard to the question of the use of sea-water for extinction of fires we may be permitted, perhaps, to suggest that the Government's consideration of the matter was not conclusive. The scheme has not been adopted, the Colonial Secretary told the Council on Tuesday, as it has been ascertained that it would cost nearly as much as increasing the rain-water reservoirs. There have, nevertheless, been experts in this very Government's service who did not look on the cost as prohibitive; and it must be remembered that sea-water can be used solely for fire-extinction or for that and the flushing of the low levels combined, which two uses would not therefore dip into our drinking-water supply as the present system of employing rain-water for all purposes does. The growth of our supply of potable water would not be so utterly inadequate, were we able to devote only sea-water to the quenching of fires and certain flushing duties. We should therefore be cutting down the expenses of the fresh water supply works and giving them, in fact, permanent relief.

Kowloon residents will hardly be pleased to note that the Government is "not entirely satisfied" with the present means of extinguishing fires in the peninsula during the dry season; but that it is still thought right to go on as at present for another eighteen months, when it is hoped that the new Kowloon waterworks will be in working order. Those who suffer from fire in Kowloon during the next eighteen months will be able therefore to reflect on the folly of being premature. But, seriously speaking, we must confess to being somewhat astonished that the Government should offer such an answer as that to the third of Mr. POLLOCK's questions. It is practically an admission that immediate steps are required, but that they will not be taken on account of expense.

ACCORDING to REUTER's telegram of the 16th instant, it is officially notified that China has instructed her representatives to assure the Powers that, come what may, she intends strictly to adhere to neutrality.

This is a very proper assurance and is not, we hope, to be taken as an example of "protesting too much." It is really rather remarkable that the Chinese have managed to maintain their neutrality so admirably at the very seat of war itself. We see from Shanghai papers that a report has been current in native circles there that a large force of Chinese cavalry and artillery were being sent to the western banks of the Liao river from Jeho in order to reinforce the Chinese troops there. Recent aggressive measures of the Russians in violating Chinese neutral territory prompted this measure. All such aggressiveness of the Russians, however, was said to be treated by the Chinese officials in China as so much bluff, an opinion that has been gaining strength since the commencement of hostilities. It is still possible that trouble may be caused at Moukden, where the Tartar General is clinging to his post in spite of Russia's hardly courteous but not unnatural invitations for him to go and take his men with him. At Newchwang the danger of China being dragged into the fighting seems happily to have been avoided by the Japanese refraining from a direct attack and the Russians ultimately abandoning the port. Peril still exists in the situation along the Liao River, but it is not looking so grave as it was.

The following note of alarm is sounded in the *P. and T. Times* of the 30th ult.: "Word reached Tientsin yesterday, 29th, from Tainanfu, Shanghai, giving information regarding a movement that is on foot in that vicinity. The secret societies have joined and formed a union against the Government and against foreigners. The people are leaving their homes in the country for the cities where they believe it will be safer. Members of some Missions who should be starting up about now for the annual meeting in Peking, write that things are in such a condition that they think it best to stand by their work and converts at present. This is the place and district where the Boxer movement began, and where Mr. Brooks was murdered."

The death occurred at Penang on the 10th inst. of the Hon. James Montague Bent Vermon, C.M.G. Member of the Straits Legislative Council. Deceased was one of the oldest Straits residents. He came out in the early sixties and from the first was associated with the Batu Kawan sugar estate, of which he was manager first, succeeding to the managing proprietorship in the late eighties. He was at the time of his death one of the proprietors of the Poco sugar estates. He held several minor Governmental offices in the Colony, and had been a Justice of the Peace and Police Magistrate for Province Wellesley. He was granted the honour of Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1891, and when he retired from the Legislative Council was allowed to retain the title of Honourable.

A remarkable speech was made by Lord Newton at Warrington last month when speaking in support of the National Service League. It was alleged, he said, that the question of national defence was an intricate one, but he held that it was so simple that any fool could understand it. They had a powerful Navy, but an inadequate reserve. The Army was smaller than it seemed, for it contained a large proportion of persons who were perfectly useless. Volunteers stood in the way of patriotism. If they retired in a body the nation would be brought to its senses, and the Government would be compelled to take action. It might be said that he was out of his senses, but he would like to see this crisis brought, for the Volunteer system was played out.

Mr. W. A. Carlson has been promoted to the substantive appointment of Harbour Master at Shanghai, which has not been filled since the death of the late Mr. A. M. Bisbee. Mr. Carlson has been Acting Harbour Master for some time.

An outbreak of rinderpest has occurred in Penang, which has reduced the number of bullocks available for municipal work by one-half and caused trouble with the coolies.

We publish to-day on pages 9 and 10 a verbatim report of the debate in the Legislative Council on Tuesday on the Bill to amend the Opium Ordinance.

Eight more Chinese plague cases were reported up to noon yesterday, five of them being fatal. One case was imported from Amoy. One case is entered in the returns as from the Emigration Camp at Laihikok.

The following appointments were made last month at the Admiralty—Lieutenant J. A. Gregory, to the *Tamar* for the *Janus*, in command, to date April 4. Sub-Lieutenant J. M. Ogilvie, to the *Tamar* for the *Janus*, to date April 4.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has consented to forward a request to King Edward that Mr. Colin Forbes, the Canadian artist, shall receive permission to paint a picture of His Majesty, to be placed in the Canadian House of Commons, which is already decorated by a portrait of Queen Victoria.

The Grand Council is stated to have instructed the Mongolian Prince Alarsin to have the best trained Mongolian troops stationed at the different strategic points as frontier guards, whose monthly expenses amounting to £10,000, will be obtained from the Board of Revenue, and the arms required will be supplied from Peking.

The death is announced from India of Mr. Kaikhosru N. Kabraji, who was for forty years editor of the well-known native paper *Rest Gofar*. The *Times of India* remarks that his death removes from the ranks of public men in Bombay one of the most honourable and respected of their number; he was an able and distinguished journalist, who held aloft the standard of reform in days when to do so was to invite instant vilification.

The proposed cricket match between the M.C.C.'s Australian Eleven and the Rest of England was to be played at Lord's on May 9, 10, and 11. No difficulty was expected if Lancashire, who on those dates were playing Leicestershire, would allow such of their players as were selected to take part. Lord Hawke, Mr. A. C. McLaren, and Mr. A. G. Steel were to be asked by the M.C.C. committee to select the Rest of England Eleven.

The balance-sheet of the German Navy League for 1903 shows an income, including the balance brought forward from the previous year, of £27,074 and an expenditure of £23,644, leaving a balance of £3,430 to be carried forward to the funds of the present year. In addition the League possesses property of the value of £13,429. The number of members on January 1, 1904, was 633,000; the number of local offices has increased from 150 to 3,595.

A Ceylon paper understands that the Admiralty are making arrangements to stock a large quantity—about 5,000 tons—of patent fuel in Colombo. The arrangements are in the hands of Captain Legge, Master-Attendant and Naval Agent. The Admiralty contractors for coal this year are Messrs. Delmege, Forsyth, & Co. It is not known whether the patent fuel is for the use of British warships, which are not thought to be adapted for the use of this particular kind of fuel.

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Major Bucknill, late R.E., writes to the *Times*—Assuming that a Russian battleship outside the entrance to Port Arthur would either have water-tight doors closed or ready for immediate closing, it is not conceivable that a torpedo would sink her so quickly as the *Petrovskiy* sank; but it is quite conceivable that a large submarine mine would do so. The Oberon experiments distinctly proved that 500lb. of gun-cotton would break the back of a battleship. If, then, such a mine exploded under the *Petrovskiy*, the chief interest will be the discovery of its origin and planting. Can it be that the mine was planted that morning by the Japanese? If so, it was probably fired by a contact-fuse floating above the mine, but below the surface, and the electric battery contained either in the mine or in the contact-fuse. I do not see how they could fire it "by observation."

The rather amusing sight may still be seen in the streets of Kobe of demure-looking maidens or of women or boys, carrying rats to the police-boxes, where the sum of three sen is handed over as compensation. In the case of girls the *Kobe Chronicle* says, the rodents are carried gingerly, being suspended by the tail from a string and held out at almost arm's length. Boys look upon the rodent as a specimen full of interest to them, and when not looking at it are swinging it about unconcernedly, in striking contrast to the droll picture presented by girls and women. From the 18th March to the 4th inst. the authorities have bought 34,000 rats, and while the number purchased daily has been 1,000 on an average, the average has now risen to 1,200. Each person who takes a rat to the police receives a ticket, which entitles participation in the periodical lottery, when prizes are distributed as an encouragement to the rat-catchers to go and do better. The second of these draws will shortly take place.

The Emperor of China is reported to have been ailing lately, and the Empress Dowager has ordered him to rest, and two court physicians to attend him.

One of the dead painter Vereschagin's pictures was dedicated to all the Conquerors, just as Mr. Watts dedicated one of his to all the Churches. But Vereschagin's was not a conchiliatory offering; it was a painted pile of skulls!

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The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has chartered the British steamers *Ocean*, *Silverlip*, and *Border Knight*.

The Russian torpedo-boat squadron under Admiral Vironius arrived at Nyborg (Denmark) on the 14th ult. The battleship *Otdyshka* and the cruiser *Aurora* arrived there the same afternoon and anchored in the roads.

Dr. Anita Newcomb MacGee, who has taken charge of the Red Cross contingent for Japan, is the first military lady doctor the world has had. Miss MacGee took her degree at Washington in 1892, and has the rank of a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army for her services in the Spanish-American War.

A committee calling itself "The Philippine Independence League" has been circulating in the United States a petition calling upon both parties in the approaching National Conventions to promise complete self-government to the Filipinos at an early day. The whole affair is stated to be somewhat embarrassing to the Administration.

The rehabilitation of Na Tung, formerly known as a Boxer chief or at least sympathiser, is a curious phenomenon. Now we hear that he has been personally investigating the police cases in Peking, some of which have been waiting several months for settlement, and he has ordered them to be all cleared up forthwith, and contemplates dismissing some of the staff. In fact Na Tung is quite a zealous reformer in some ways.

The body of Charles Hotson, Engineer of H.M.S. *Rosario*, has been found in the river at Shanghai off the French Bund. The unfortunate man was last seen alive about 1 a.m. on the 1st instant, and it is believed he met with foul play. The body was badly decomposed and could only be identified by his clothing. His pockets were cut out and his watch and chain missing, the only articles found on him being his sleeve-links. When last seen he was leaving for his ship in a sampan from a point near the Astor House.

In the House of Commons on the 13th ult. Mr. MacNeill addressed a long question to the Colonial Secretary seeking information with respect to providing idols and temples for the Chinese in the Transvaal compounds. Mr. Lyttelton, in reply, said he had every desire to assist the hon. member in his somewhat technical inquiry, but he was not yet in a position to add anything to a previous answer. Mr. MacNeill asked: In the event of the Government undertaking to supply the Chinese with idols, will they be made in Birmingham? No answer was forthcoming.

A Peking latter quoted by the *N.C. Daily News* stated that through Mrs. Conger's instructions and help the majority of the ladies and female attendants of their Majesties the Empress and Empress Dowager in the Palace are able now to knit with ease woolen mittens, stockings, and comforters, while a few of the cleverer ones have also been taught the art of crocheting. At first only a few cared to learn how to knit, but as time went on others began to take an interest in it, until now it is said to be the "rage" at Court, their Majesties and the Emperor being now supplied with woolen things sufficient to last them a life-time.

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HONGKONG GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP.

The Final for the championship of the Royal Hongkong Golf Club was decided on the Happy Valley links yesterday, when Mr. T. S. Forrest defeated Mr. C. W. May by 1 up and 10 to play. The match was a 35 hole one and at the end of the first 18 Mr. Forrest was 6 holes up.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S SERVICE.

THE WAR—THE TSAR'S MOVEMENTS.

LONDON, 16th May.
The Tsar has left St. Petersburg for Kharhoff and Kieff to bid farewell to the troops going to the front. The Tsar will be absent for 10 days.

CHINA'S NEUTRALITY.

LONDON, 16th May.
It is officially notified that China has instructed its representatives to assure the Powers that, come what may, she intends strictly to adhere to neutrality.

AUSTRIAN PREMIER ON THE SITUATION.

LONDON, 16th May.
Count Gorochowski, addressing a delegation at Buda-Pest, said the situation in the Far East was most gloomy and it was impossible to gauge the duration of the struggle. In view of the wide interpretation of "contraband of war," he suggested restrictive regulations by a mutual agreement of the Powers. He warned Turkey against the serious dangers to which she will expose herself if she fails to make reforms.

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN BUDGET.

LONDON, 16th May.
The enormous demands for extraordinary naval and military expenditure has caused amazement and anxiety in Vienna. The newspaper decline to believe that there are sufficient grounds for imposing such a burden on Austria-Hungary.

M. DOUMER TALKS.

LONDON, 16th May.
M. Doumer, President of the Budget Committee, in a speech at a banquet, strongly condemned the questionable attitude of some Frenchmen towards the Russian alliance. He said it was impossible for France to side with "yellow" in a struggle between Western and Eastern civilisations.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS":—SIR.—As the plague season is with us now, and many occupiers of houses, especially domestic houses situated in lanes or narrow streets in the western side of the town, cannot get water for use from their taps, they have to carry water from other places to the 2nd or 3rd floor and have to carry water and pass through the steep and dirty stairs of their flats. As many of the stairs erected in these kinds of houses are already dirty, and the tubs they use are almost broken tubs, and water is dropping freely on the stairs, making the stairs more dirty and slippery; and they do not clean them at all on account of want of water and the amount of trouble in obtaining water to use, the floors are left very dirty, thereby causing sickness.

Under the above circumstances will the Water Authority kindly see that water is properly supplied to this kind of house in order to enable everyone to have a chance of enjoying say at least one or two hours of water daily from their respective taps to save the trouble of their hunting for and carrying about water from one place to another? Yours faithfully,

K.

SHORTHAND IN SINGAPORE.

The following letter appears in the *Singapore Free Press*:—"In January last a Mr. Warwick Peelo advertised freely in the local papers about a new system of shorthand called the Up-to-date Shorthand, of which he was one of the original promoters. By this system a bright pupil was supposed to be able to jot down 200 words a minute after six weeks' study. After securing a fairly large number of pupils, some of whom paid \$30 in advance for the whole series of lessons, a studio was opened near Cavanagh Bridge, and Mr. Peelo soon after left, presumably, for fresh fields and pastures new, leaving behind a lady in charge of the studio. Last week the Up-to-date shorthand pupils were rather surprised to see the studio closed and their lady-teacher *non-existent*. No intimation whatever was given, either verbally or through advertisements, about the intended closing of the studio, and its sudden closing and strange disappearance of Mr. W. Peelo's lady representative are warmly talked about. A son of mine was a pupil of this studio. Thirty dollars were paid in advance for his tuition, and he received only five lessons. As I am thereby a loser to a certain extent, I shall feel obliged if you, Mr. Editor, or any of your readers, would kindly enlighten me about this rather strange business. Is the studio altogether closed or only temporarily? Oh, where and whither is the lady-teacher?"

We learn on enquiry that Mr. Warwick Peelo is at present absent from Hongkong on a honeymoon trip, and is expected to return within ten days.

POLICE COURT.

Wednesday, 18th May.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ.
(ACTING POLICE MAGISTRATE)

NOT IMPRESSED.

While in a crowd actually looking at criminals in stocks, a Chinaman attempted to pick the pockets of two Chinese women. The man was possessed of six hours' stocks himself, 14 days' imprisonment being thrown in.

FALSE TESTIMONY.

An Opium Excise Officer was fined \$25 for giving false testimony when charging a man with possession of illicit opium.

The defendant was discharged. He admitted possession, but said the opium had been put in his pocket by a woman. It appeared to be a plot against him.

DISORDERLY BELGIANS.

Two Belgians charged with behaving in a disorderly manner were fined \$5.

EXPICTION.

A man was fined \$5 and 39 cents compensation for exquiting betel-juice on a Chinese woman's jacket.

THREATENING LANGUAGE.

For using threatening language to a constable a Chinese coolie was fined \$3.

BEFORE MR. J. H. KEMP (SECOND POLICE MAGISTRATE).

ENTICING A GIRL.

For enticing a girl under 16 years of age to live with him a Chinaman of Hungkong was sentenced to three months' hard labour. Defendant said the girl came to his house and told him that her aunt had assailed her. His excuse was not accepted.

OVERCROWDING.

The occupant of a Chinese boarding-house, No. 146 Des Vaux Road Central, was charged with overcrowding.

Mr. E. R. Hallifax (Deputy Superintendent of Police) prosecuted, and Mr. O. D. Thompson, solicitor, appeared for the defence.

The case was remanded till Saturday, Mr. Kemp desiring to consider a point.

ABOUT \$2,000.

A man was charged with embezzlement—when a creditor had brought a promissory note to him, for collection, he tore it up.

Mr. Ahmed e Castro, solicitor, appeared for the defence.

It was arranged that defendant should pay the money by instalments.

SUPREME COURT.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

Wednesday, 18th May.

BEFORE SIR W. M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED ARSON.

Tom Wan, a Chinaman, was charged with setting fire to a dwelling house, persons being therein. Sir H. Spence Berkeley (Attorney-General) prosecuted, and Mr. N. H. Slade, barrister-at-law, instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring, solicitor, of Mr. John Hastings' office, appeared on behalf of the defendant.

Prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The following jurors were empanelled:—Messrs. Alfredo Maria Roza, Charles Lee, Isaac Turner, Albert Schmidtbois, Arthur Pearson Goodwin, Edward Stephen, and Sassoon Ezra Moses.

In opening the case the Attorney-General said the facts were that on the 9th April a fire occurred at No. 138, Wellington street, a four story house. The fire broke out in the early hours in the morning between two and three o'clock. At this house the occupant of the second floor had insurances, covering furniture, goods, clothing, etc., totalling \$4,000. These insurances had been issued all within a month, under the name of Pun Tak. On the 9th March the man in question had taken out a policy for \$2,000, on the 18th March another policy for \$1,000, and on the 24th March a third for \$1,000. All the policies were for the second floor. The fire occurred, as previously mentioned, on the 9th April, a few days after the last policy was taken out. People were living both above and below the second floor. When the police arrived shortly after the fire had started the second and third floors were burning fiercely. The fire, therefore, started either on the second or third floor; there was no fire on the first floor. Each floor was let to separate tenants. The ground floor was occupied by a shoemaker and a silversmith, the first by a family house, second by defendant, and third by a storekeeper. A witness of the second floor would state that she first saw the fire on the staircase leading from the first to the second floor. The prisoner and his wife were servants to Hung Hang Chi, but at the time of the fire this man was at Canton. The theory of the prosecution was first that Hung Hang Chi had gone to Canton, leaving the other man to burn the house. The tenant on the first floor was awakened by cries of "fire," and getting up saw fire on the stairs half-way between the first and second floors. This person got water and put out the flames; there were bundles of fire-wood on the stairs. This witness also saw a room on the second floor burning. He ran down the stairs and commenced to remove his boxes. Another witness who saw fire on the stairs ran out and gave an alarm. A man living next door heard shouts from his neighbours, and forced his way through a partition on the verandah, with the result that he found a quantity of paper lanterns burning. No one saw the prisoner set fire to the house—it was very rare in arson cases that anyone did. There were three fires—one fire in the room, one on the stairs, and one on the verandah.

Evidence was led.

Included among the witnesses were the persons spoken of by the Attorney-General. Police Inspector Gourlay said he was the first of the Police Force to see the fire. He judged that it must have started in the back part of the building.

Mr. Judah, of Messrs. Turner & Co., was called upon to give evidence regarding the first mentioned insurance policy. The Attorney-General asked him a leading question as to the premises. Mr. Slade rose to his feet and vigorously objected to the Attorney-General's question. Witness said that the premises insured were the top floor and not the second floor.

Further evidence went to show that Pun Tak and Hung Hang Chi were the same man.

On the Attorney-General's closing his case Mr. Slade said that he had no witnesses.

The Attorney-General read a statement by the prisoner, afterwards saying that on the man's own admission he was left in charge of the premises in question. Prisoner had told a story about another man bringing powder in a paper and spirits of wine to the house he was in charge of. Why did he let this man bring these things in? Prisoner's wife and this man had escaped, so prisoner naturally put the blame on them. He affirmed that the jury had quite sufficient circumstantial evidence to return a verdict of guilty.

Mr. Slade with remarkable ability impressed on the minds of the jurors that the crime of arson was a very serious one, and the jury therefore had to be very careful that they had the right man before they convicted the prisoner. It was their duty to convict if they had no reasonable doubt as to the man's guilt—and only so. In all other circumstances they must give defendant the benefit of the doubt, it being the duty of the Crown to prove the man guilty—not the duty of prisoner to prove himself innocent. Mr. Slade continuing picked the evidence of each to pieces, proving that the sum total of it proved nothing. The really guilty person was not in custody.

After his Lordship had summed up the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty" by 5-2.

RACING IN ENGLAND.

The following is the result of the race for the One Thousand Guineas:—

MAJOR EUSTACE LODER'S ch. f. *Pretty Polly*, by *Gallinule*—*Administration* ...

MR. DOUGLAS BAIRD'S b. f. *Leucadia* by *Martagon*—*Santa Maria* ...

LORD STANLEY'S b. f. *Flamma* by *Florizel* ...

II.—*Hand Grenade* ...

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD

A meeting of the Board will be held at 1.15 p.m. to-day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

1. Minute by the Medical Officer of Health recommending that certain works be provided for in the Estimates for Public Works for 1905. 2. Further correspondence relative to the Drainage System.

3. Further correspondence relative to the question of external air in respect of Nos. 4 to 6, Bridges Street.

4. Application for exemption from the requirements of Sub-section 4 of Section 188 of the Building's Ordinance.

5. Further correspondence relative to the application for exemption from the provisions of Sections 180 (1) and 141 of Ordinance 1 of 1903, in respect of No. 438, Des Vaux Road.

6. Plan of proposed urinal in the Engine-house at the Peak Tramway terminus.

7. Correspondence relative to the applications for Make-house Licences, in respect of Nos. 21 and 30, Sham Shui Po, and the unsatisfactory condition of the drainage in that village.

8. Further correspondence relative to the application for Makehouse Licence, in respect of No. 34, Queen's Road Central.

9. Further correspondence relative to the application for a pork licence and a fat-boiling licence, in respect of No. 38, Wan Chai Road.

10. Applications for licences or the renewal of same as detailed below:—

Fruit.—No. 29, Hollywood Road; No. 516, Queen's Road West; No. 604, Queen's Road West; No. 61, Station Street South, Yau Ma Tei.

Pork.—No. 115, Queen's Road East; No. 59 Staunton Street; No. 62, Staunton Street; No. 46, Sai Wan Ho; No. 6, Station Street, Mongkok.

Fish.—No. 52, Staunton Street.

Fat, Pork, and Vegetables.—No. 2, Bridges Row, Quarry Bay.

12. Applications that the following premises may be registered or re-registered for the purposes stated:—

Bake-houses.—No. 90, Des Vaux Road Central; No. 33, Wellington Street; Nos. 54 and 56, Bonham Strand West; Nos. 107, 109, and 111, Wan Chai Road; No. 82, Queen's Road West; No. 46, Elgin Road, Tsim Sha Tsui.

Laundries.—No. 15, Upper Lascar Row; No. 4, Lee Yuen Street West; No. 14, Hollywood Road; No. 19, Gough Street.

Dairy.—No. 35, Pottinger Street.

Fat-boiling.—No. 423, Queen's Road West; No. 1, Sheung On Lane, Hung Hom.

13. Reports of the Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Surveyor and the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for the year 1903.

14. Reports of the analyses of the public water supplies for the month of April, 1904.

15. Mortality Statistics for the weeks ending 30th April; and 7th May, 1904.

16. Lime-washing Return for the fortnight ending 10th May, 1904.

17. Rat Return for the fortnights ending 2nd and 16th May, 1904.

ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND RUSSIA.

A leading article in the Paris *Figaro* by Baron Pierre de Coubertin puts in black and white an idea which in different forms has been about for some little time past, at all events, ever since the Anglo-French *rapprochement* assumed substantial proportions—as to the possibility of an improvement of relations between England and Russia, to be accomplished possibly through France as an intermediary. The questions that at once arise in connection with what most people would regard as being in principle a consummation devoutly to be wished are, whether the plan is feasible at all, and whether England's obligations towards Japan would permit the necessary *pourparlers* to be entered upon before the war is over. These are questions, however, which can be answered only by the two parties directly concerned, but it is of interest to find in so well-informed a newspaper as the *Figaro* confirmation of the fact recently mentioned in my own correspondence—namely, that in influential French political circles an Anglo-Russian *rapprochement* would be particularly welcome. It is, indeed, probable that throughout France such a change in the international diplomatic situation would be hailed with intense satisfaction.

The *Figaro* alludes to the "possibility henceforth assured" for the Government of the French Republic to work on behalf of a *rapprochement* between England and Russia. The task had hitherto appeared beyond attainment, not because it did not correspond to the secret desires entertained for a long time past both in London and St. Petersburg, to the feeling of real security, and to the concern for well-understood interests. Years have passed away since Cecil Rhodes, during a short call at the Quai d'Orsay, drew the attention of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs to this sure means of placing the peace of the world on a firm basis and of replacing France in the front rank of nations.

What the eagle eye of this adventurer of genius perceived in now becoming clear to the most competent politicians. It will soon be grasped by public opinion. The writer proceeds to say that there are certainly difficulties and obstacles.

He points out that only a few years ago the mere notion that England would abandon her traditional insularism and would dispose of her difficulties with France by an amicable settlement would have been treated as Utopian. It may be remarked, he suggests, that the moment is scarcely propitious for an Anglo-Franco-Russian *entente*, but himself argues differently. He says that the war in the Far East has placed the belligerents, as well as their allies, in presence of crude realities calculated to exasperate, not disengage, or lassitude, but reflection and sagacity.

It was thought at one moment in Europe that there had broken out in the Far East one of those decisive and fatal struggles to which the generations most devoted to peace are doomed by the irony of fate. But already the aspect of the conflict is less alarming, but its difficulties on the contrary, are increasing and multiplying.

England experiences similar impressions in her expedition against Tibet. While soldiers stirred by the flourish of trumpets feel themselves full of patriotic enthusiasm, thinking Governments may repeat for not having sufficiently negotiated. In any case, England and Russia appreciate each other, and esteem each other more now than they did a year ago.

The *Figaro* considers that it would be a worthy task to establish a durable peace in Asia based on an Anglo-Russian agreement. "No," exclaims the writer, "the conclusion of an Anglo-Franco-Russian alliance is not beyond human effort. It remains the most powerful and salutary arrangement that could be realised; and under the tragic rock of the Matopo Mountains the shade of Cecil Rhodes is no doubt still thinking of it."

The *Figaro* considers that it would be a worthy task to establish a durable peace in Asia based on an Anglo-Russian agreement.

namely, that, whatever our attitude, whether for or against, the enterprise would be carried through.

He sincerely hoped that we should take up the thread of negotiation and give our best support to the fullness of that enterprise.

The solidarity of our permanent interests with those of Germany should be strong enough to withstand the cobwebs of ephemeral jealousies and wiles. With regard to that gigantic enterprise which was to establish direct communication by rail between the heart of Russia and China, he said Andrian, in Fergana, the present terminus of the line, was sometimes mentioned as its starting point, whence it would run to Lanzhou, on the Hoangho river, which was 1,604 miles in length. He had himself been over the section between Andrian and Kashgar, and could speak of that part of the country as likely to defeat any such project. A point west of Kulja in the direction of the Ili river on the line some day to be built from Tashkend through Semiretschnik northward was also sometimes mentioned as a starting point for the China project. Though this scheme would seem to carry in its train the vassalage of Tibet and the conquest of China, it might fairly be granted that nothing was too difficult for a nation which could conceive and carry out such a scheme as the Siberian Railway; but, nevertheless, it formed part of a train of Arabian Nights fancy having no chance of realisation in the present or the near future.

The *Figaro* had correctly summed up the situation, too much emphasis could not be laid on the fundamental and dominating factor—namely, that, whatever our attitude, whether for or against, the enterprise would be carried through.

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NOTICE.

Communications respecting Advertisements, Subscriptions, Printing, Binding, &c., should be addressed to THE PRESS only, and special business matters to MANAGER.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not paid for a fixed period will be discontinued until informed.

Orders for extra copies of DAILY PRESS should sent in before 11 a.m. on day of publication, after that hour the supply is limited. Only used for Cash.

Address: Press, Codes: A.R.C., 5th Ed. Lieut. 2, P.O. Box, 33, Telephone No. 12.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED.

A Englishman requires BOARD and RESIDENCE in a Mess or Private only in Kowloon.

Apply to CARE OF DAILY PRESS OFFICE, HONGKONG, 19th May, 1904. [1280]

STAMPS.

MAGNIFICENT Private Collection is being dispersed. Ask to see the next lot of the FAR EAST STAMP CHANGE CLUB. Plenty of Bargains, &c., at Messrs. GRACA & CO., Stal, HONGKONG HOTEL CORRIDOR. HONGKONG, 19th May, 1904. [1281]

NOTICE.

ANE, CRAWFORD & CO'S STORE will be CLOSED next MONDAY and ESDAY, "WHIT MONDAY" and "VICTORIA DAY". Customers are respectfully asked to make their necessary purchases Saturday, the 21st instant.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO. HONGKONG, 18th May, 1904. [1282]

E SHANGHAI AND HONGKONG DYEING AND CLEANING CO., LTD.

THE Public are hereby notified that from this date WM. POWELL, LD. have appointed as SOLE Receiving Agents in Colony for the above Company. HONGKONG, 19th May, 1904. [1283]

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

VACANCY exists for a Non-Chinese CLERK in the Treasury, at a Salary of \$1000 per annum by bi-annual increments of \$50. Candidates must have a fair knowledge of English, be quick at figures, and write a good hand.

By Order of the Board of Directors. A. R. LOWE, Acting Secretary. HONGKONG, 14th May, 1904. [1284]

WANTED.

ENGLISHMAN requires position, Hongkong or Outports; able to introduce Business. Good references. Write to "MERCANTILE," CARE OF DAILY PRESS OFFICE, HONGKONG, 17th May, 1904. [1285]

WANTED.

A BOY able to read English fluently for one or two hours every morning. Apply in Writing— "L." CARE OF DAILY PRESS OFFICE, HONGKONG, 11th May, 1904. [1286]

SITUATION WANTED.

A N English Speaking Chinese Gentleman is willing to accompany European or American Tourists in China or elsewhere as private SECRETARY and INTERPRETER at moderate terms. Best reference. Apply to F. K., CARE OF DAILY PRESS OFFICE, HONGKONG, 16th May, 1904. [1287]

BANK HOLIDAYS.

THE Exchange Banks will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on 23rd and 24th instant, "WHIT MONDAY" and "VICTORIA DAY" respectively. HONGKONG, 18th May, 1904. [1288]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

ROM CALCUTTA, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

THE Steamship

"LIGHTNING," having arrived from the above ports, Consignees are hereby informed that their Goods are delivered from alongside.

Those impeding the discharge will be landed to Consignees' risk and expense. Those remaining on board after 4 P.M. of the instant, will be landed at Consignees' expense into the Godowns of the Kowloon and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company Limited.

Signees of Cargo from SINGAPORE, PENANG are requested to take IMMEDIATE delivery of their Goods from side, such cargo impeding the discharge. Vessel will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bill of Lading will be countersigned by the signed.

DAVID SASSOON & CO., LTD., Agents. HONGKONG, 18th May, 1904. [1289]

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.

M BATAVIA, CHERIBON, SAMARANG, SOURLABAYA, MACASSAR AND JAVA PORTS.

E J.C.L.L. Steamship

"TJIMAH," having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of cargo are hereby invited to send in their Bills of Lading for signature by the undersigned, and to immediate delivery of their Goods from side.

Cargo impeding her discharge and/or left on board after Friday, the 26th May, will be landed in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company Limited, at Consignees' risk and expense.

Fire Insurance will be effected.

Steamer will be despatched for Moji, and Yokohama on the 21st May, about

12 P.M. HONGKONG, 18th May, 1904. [1290]

JUST UNPACKED.

CHUTNEY!! CHUTNEY!!

SOLUTELY the Best, from the well-known Chutney Makers in India, Messrs. Dutt & Co., such as Major Greys, Club, Cashmere, Mango Sweet Shred, etc. will speak for itself.

H. RUTTONJEE, No. 5, D'Aguilar Street, or 36 to 38, Elgin Road, Kowloon. HONGKONG, 18th May, 1904. [1291]

ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE ROYAL

THE HENRY DALLAS MUSICAL COMEDY CO.

RETURN SEASON

TO-NIGHT (THURSDAY), MAY 19, "FLORODORA."

TO-MORROW (FRIDAY), MAY 20, "THREE LITTLE MAIDS."

SATURDAY, MAY 21, "A CHINESE HONEYMOON."

— POSITIVELY THE LAST TWO PERFORMANCES.

MONDAY, MAY 23, "THE SIGN OF THE CROSS."

TUESDAY, MAY 24, "THE GEISHA."

PRICES AS USUAL.

PLAN AT THE ROBINSON PIANO CO., LTD.

Late Tram after each Performance. HONGKONG, 16th May, 1904. [1207]

PUBLIC COMPANY

THE PUNJOM MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SEVENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the OFFICE of the Company, 13, Beaconsfield Arcade, on WEDNESDAY, the 25th MAY, 1904, at 11 A.M. for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors and the Statement of Accounts to the 31st December, 1903, the election of Directors and Auditor, and to consider the future financial arrangements for carrying on the Company.

By Order of the Board of Directors. A. R. LOWE, Acting Secretary. HONGKONG, 14th May, 1904. [1244]

WANTED.

ENGLISHMAN requires position, Hongkong or Outports; able to introduce Business. Good references. Write to "MERCANTILE," CARE OF DAILY PRESS OFFICE, HONGKONG, 17th May, 1904. [1261]

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AN APPEAL.

THE SISTERS who direct St. ANTONIO'S CONVENT at Macao will be very thankful to Shop-keepers, Linen-drapers, Clothiers and Tailors in Hongkong, Macao, and elsewhere who will send to them remnants of material, books of patterns no longer used, and any pieces of cloth, no matter how small, of which they can make use.

Those who send will thus, at no cost to themselves, afford the numerous hands in the convent, especially the little ones, opportunity for useful occupation; for pieces of cloth, even of a square inch, can be stitched together and very pretty pieces of work made out of cloth that would otherwise be thrown away. These articles are bought by charitable persons, and the Sisters are thus helped to keep up their very large establishment, which is maintained by the alms of friends and in a great measure by the earnings of the girls themselves, who lead by no means an idle life within the convent walls.

Cargo from the above ports, Consignees are hereby informed that their Goods are delivered from alongside.

Those impeding the discharge will be landed to Consignees' risk and expense.

Those remaining on board after 4 P.M. of the instant, will be landed at Consignees' expense into the Godowns of the Kowloon and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company Limited.

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DAVID SASSOON & CO., LTD., Agents. HONGKONG, 18th May, 1904. [1273]

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APPROVED.

FRANK SMITH, Acting Commissioner of Customs.

Custom House, Swatow, 13th May, 1904. [1263]

NOTICE TO MARINERS, No. 43.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Masts of the Wreck of a Sunken Junk off CINCINNATI POINT, referred to in Local Notice to Mariners No. 42 on the 22nd April last, have been removed.

There is 14 fathoms at low water spring tides over the wreck.

A. HOLZ, Harbour Master.

Approved:

FRANK SMITH, Acting Commissioner of Customs.

Custom House, Swatow, 13th May, 1904. [1263]

NOTICE TO MARINERS, No. 43.

THE HENRY DALLAS MUSICAL COMEDY CO.

RETURN SEASON

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A BOY able to read English fluently for one or two hours every morning. Apply in Writing— "L." CARE OF DAILY PRESS OFFICE, HONGKONG, 11th May, 1904. [1230]

SITUATION WANTED.

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BANK HOLIDAYS.

THE Exchange Banks will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on 23rd and 24th instant, "WHIT MONDAY" and "VICTORIA DAY" respectively. HONGKONG, 18th May, 1904. [1272]

AN APPEAL.

THE SISTERS who direct St. ANTONIO'S CONVENT at Macao will be very thankful to Shop-keepers, Linen-drapers, Clothiers and Tailors in Hongkong, Macao, and elsewhere who will send to them remnants of material, books of patterns no longer used, and any pieces of cloth, no matter how small, of which they can make use.

Those who send will thus, at no cost to themselves, afford the numerous hands in the convent, especially the little ones, opportunity for useful occupation; for pieces of cloth, even of a square inch, can be stitched together and very pretty pieces of work made out of cloth that would otherwise be thrown away. These articles are bought by charitable persons, and the Sisters are thus helped to keep up their very large establishment, which is maintained by the alms of friends and in a great measure by the earnings of the girls themselves, who lead by no means an idle life within the convent walls.

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FULL GRAND.

Hongkong, 13th May, 1904.

THE HORRORS OF HOME-COMING.

The *Daily Mail* has recently opened its columns to a correspondence on "The Horrors of Home-coming," a title not calculated to cheer exiles in distant lands. The vituperation of the writers is mainly concentrated upon the refreshment stall at Dover Pier. It is the size of a small railway bookstall, and cups of coffee and soup are handed out through an open window. The customer stands on the open platform, with a knife-edged breeze rippling in straight from the sea. The *Daily Mail*, with its usual enterprise, sent a representative to travel to institute comparisons between the arrangements made for passengers at English and French ports. His report is not very satisfactory reading for the patriotic Englishman. The contrast between the miserable shelters and refreshment stalls provided at Newhaven, Folkestone, and Southampton, as well as at Dover, and those existing across the Channel, is humiliating, as all travellers know. One has only to compare the spacious and admirable buffet at Calais, with the rude hovel that exists on Dover Pier, to realise that "they do these things better in France." As a gate of England, Dover is the most execrable place conceivable. It is a marvel that its shortcomings have been tolerated so long. The *Times of India* supports the *Daily Mail* and says:—One wanderer can recall how, after journeying in many lands, he and a companion gazed upon Dover's "memoried cliffs" from the decks of the smallest and smelliest of the Belgian steamers plying from Ostend. If Scott had had their subsequent experience, he would have revised his celebrated verses about "the man with soul as dead, who never to himself hath said," and so on. The steamer was crowded to excess. On arrival at Dover Pier they stopped ashore in drenching rain. There was no shelter available. Their luggage was dumped down on the stones, and the Customs officers examined it with no better protection than was afforded by an umbrella. There was no opportunity for obtaining food. The London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company, faithful to its reputation, had failed to provide sufficient coaches. The two travellers had to crowd with ten others into a third-class compartment. The train, named by some humorist a "boat express," stopped at nearly every station on the way to London. It was so badly lighted that reading was impossible. Although many passengers had tickets for Charing Cross the last went forth at Dover that everybody must go to Victoria. The arrival was timed for ten o'clock. The train crawled into Victoria at a quarter-past midnight; on a journey of many thousand miles, it was the only train that failed to keep scheduled time. The resources of one of the best-known hotels in London were unequal to furnishing any provender except dry biscuits after one a.m. The travellers murmured with Scott, "This is my own, my native land," and went hungry to bed. We have related this experience, not because it is at all exceptional, but rather because it is typical of what occurs daily. No wonder angry Englishmen are writing to the papers about "The Horrors of Home-coming."

We do not know what are the precise duties of a Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, but we hope that when the new Lord Warden lands at Dover he will receive a warmer welcome than is accorded to most of his countrymen returning from exile. There is room for reform in this particular Cinque Port, as in India. In the wildest parts of Manchuria and Trans-Baikalia, the railway station buffets were, prior to the war, infinitely superior to those of any of the South Coast ports. At any station on the Siberian and Manchurian Railways it was possible to obtain excellent meals at any hour of the day or night. But the only port of arrival in England—we speak of the South Coast—which makes any respectable attempt to cater for the comfort of passengers from abroad, is Plymouth. While we are on this subject, we may call attention to the disgraceful confusion which usually attends the departure from Charing Cross of passengers by the Indian Mail for Brindisi. As travellers going on a long journey, they are usually encumbered with a considerable amount of luggage. But although a special train awaits them at Calais, and although their numbers are always approximately known beforehand, no attempt is made to provide them with reserved accommodation as far as Dover. They have to crowd in anywhere, fighting their way through mobs of people seeing friends off on the perils of their journey to Paris. The scenes at Charing Cross on a Friday night would not be tolerated for an instant in any continental station. The defect we have pointed out is not the fault of that much-abused institution, the Peninsular and Oriental Company. We understand that representations have been repeatedly made from Leadenhall Street asking for reserved accommodation for passengers by the Indian Mail. The railway company persist in refusing. Having done their best to make the arrival of travellers as uncomfortable as possible, they vindicate their reputation for consistency by creating discomforts on their departure also. It is not until the calm and orderly quietude of Calais Station is reached that peace supervenes once more. And yet there are people who still wonder why Englishmen go abroad! In this respect, at least, they go abroad to learn the art of travel.



NOTICE TO KOWLOON RESIDENTS

EXTRA COPIES of *Daily Press* are on sale daily at Mr. H. RUTTONEE'S KOWLOON STORE, No. 36, Elgin Road. Price 15 cents per copy cash.

Hongkong, 22nd December, 1902.

DAVID GORSAL & SONS MERCHANT NAVY NAVY BOILED ONG FLAX CANVAS RELIANCE CROWN TARPAILING ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO. Sole Agents.

3486

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

The examination of the candidates for Rhodes Scholarships began to-day at all colleges where applicants were forthcoming, says a New York despatch of the 13th ult. It is estimated that there are between 600 and 700 candidates who will actually go in for the examination, the papers for which Dr. Parkin brought over from Oxford last month. The conditions are regarded as being rather hard. The candidates must be unmarried, between the ages of nineteen and twenty-five, and only students who have finished the second year work at some institution of learning which confers degrees are eligible. Besides this candidates are obliged to send testimonials regarding their athletic qualification. While the examinations in most of the States will be held to-day, those at Columbia, Cornell, and Syracuse Universities in New York State will continue to-morrow. The examination papers include the classics, arithmetic, algebra, and geometry. The completed papers will be sent to Dr. Parkin for transmission to Oxford, where the final decisions will be made. Eight candidates from Columbia University are in the competition, and six from Roman Catholic colleges in New York. Among the candidates is Mr. W. C. Schatz, of Cornell University, who holds the American inter-collegiate championship for cross-country running.



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Hongkong, 12th December, 1903.

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ITS TRADE, POPULATION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.

BY M. O'S.

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DEPARTURES.

18th May. CALIFORNIA, British str., for Vancouver. CHIYUEN, Chinese str., for Shanghai. GRAAF V. BYLANDT, Dutch str., for Yokohama. HEATHCUE, British str., for Moji. J. B. LEEDS, British str., for Manila. KALFONG, British str., for Manila. PAKNAH, German str., for Bangkok. SAGAN, British str., for Ningpo. TIENSTEIN, British str., for Shanghai. TRITOS, German str., for Swatow.

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LONDON & ANTWERP	DEUCALION	Brit. str.		BUTTERFIELD & SWINE	7th June.
MARSEILLES, &c., VIA PORTS OF CALL	AGAMEMNON	Brit. str.		BUTTERFIELD & SWINE	21st June.
MARSEILLES, LONDON & ANTWERP	E. SIMONS	Fran. str.	G. Bourdon	MESSAGERIES MARITIMES	31st inst., at 1 P.M.
BREMEN, VIA PORTS OF CALL	BERNMOHR	Brit. str.	Webster	GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.	About 11th June.
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TRISTE, &c., VIA SINGAPORE, &c.	RAS ISRA	Brit. str.		SHewan, Tomes & Co.	4th June, at Noon.
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YOKOHAMA, VIA SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE	CEYLON	Brit. str.	C. F. Lockstone	P. & O. S. N. Co.	21st inst., at 4 P.M.
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SHANGHAI	COROMANDEL	Brit. str.	C. R. Longden	C. R. S. N. Co.	21st inst., at 3 P.M.
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SHANGHAI	TAIWAN	Brit. str.		BUTTERFIELD & SWINE	23rd inst.
SHANGHAI	WOOSUNG	Aus. str.	Cobol	SANDER, WIELER & CO.	25th inst., Noon.
SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA & KOBE	TRIUMPH	Jap. str.	A. Hansen	OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA	2th inst., 10 A.M.
FOOCHOW, VIA SWATOW & AMOY	FEITHJOF	Jap. str.	H. A. Haraldson	OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA	22nd inst., 10 A.M.
TAMSUI, VIA SWATOW & AMOY	M. STRUVE	Jap. str.	T. Brumfitt	OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA	29th inst., 10 A.M.
ANPING, VIA SWATOW & AMOY	TRITOS	Jap. str.	H. Kraft	OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA	1st June, 10 A.M.
SWATOW, AMOY & FOOCHOW	HAICHING	Brit. str.	Hodgins	DODWELL & CO., LTD.	To-morrow, 11 A.M.
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MANILA, CEBU & ILOILO	ZAFIRO	Brit. str.	R. Rodger	SHewan, Tomes & Co.	28th inst., 10 A.M.
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CHUENG ON STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., No. 17, Connaught Road Central, Hongkong, 15th March, 1904. [27]

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YUKUN S. CO., LTD.

No. 216, Wing Lok Street, Hongkong, 27th February, 1904. [75]

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JOINT SERVICES.

FORTNIGHTLY SAILINGS FOR LONDON AND CONTINENT.
MONTHLY SAILINGS FOR LIVERPOOL.

TAKING CARGO ON THROUGH BILLS OF LADING FOR ALL EUROPEAN,
NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICAN, WEST AUSTRALIAN, JAVA,
AND SUMATRA PORTS.

OUTWARDS.

FROM	STEAMERS	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
GLASGOW and LIVERPOOL	"DARDANUS"	On 21st May.	
GLASGOW and LIVERPOOL	"YANGTSZE"	On 29th May.	
GLASGOW and LIVERPOOL	"DIOMED"	On 3rd June.	

HOMEBWARDS.

FOR	STEAMERS	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
LONDON and ANTWERP	"ALCINOUS"	On 24th May.	
LONDON and ANTWERP	"DEUCALION"	On 7th June.	
LONDON and ANTWERP	"AGAMEMNON"	On 21st June.	

* Taking Cargo for Liverpool at London Rates.

TRANS-PACIFIC SERVICE.

FOR	STEAMERS	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
VICTORIA, SEATTLE, TACOMA, and all PACIFIC COAST PORTS, VIA NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA			

For Freight, apply to—

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
AGENTS.

[10-11]

Hongkong, 5th May, 1904.

CHINA NAVIGATION CO.
LIMITED.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
SHANGHAI	+ "TAIWAN"	On 21st May.
SWATOW, CHEFOO and TIENSIN	"KANSU"	On 29th May.
SHANGHAI	+ "WOOSUNG"	On 23rd May.
THURSDAY ISLAND, COOK- TOWN, CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE, SYDNEY and MEL- BOURNE	+ "CHANGSHA"	On 2nd June.

The attention of Passengers is directed to the superior accommodation offered by these steamers, which are fitted throughout with Electric Light, Unrivalled Table. A duly qualified Surgeon is carried.

Taking Cargo on through bills of lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports.

Taking Cargo and Passengers at through rates for all New Zealand Ports and other Australian Ports.

REDUCED SALOON FARES, SINGLE AND RETURN, TO MANILA AND AUSTRALIAN PORTS.

For Freight or Passage, apply to—

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
AGENTS.

[12]

Hongkong, 19th May, 1904.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL
STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.STEAM FOR STRAITS, CEYLON, AUS-
TRALIA, INDIA, ADEN, EGYPT,
MEDITERRANEAN PORTS.PLYMOUTH AND LONDON.
TURKISH BILS OF LONDON
FOR BATAVIA, PERSIAN GULF, CONTINENTAL,
AMERICAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.

THE Steamship

"CHUSAN,"

Captain W. B. Palmer, R.N.R., carrying His
Majesty's Mail, will be despatched from this
for Bombay, etc., on SATURDAY, the 21st
MAY, at Noon, taking passengers and
cargo for the above ports.Silk and Valuables, all cargo for France, and
Tea for London (under arrangement) will be
transhipped at Colombo into a steamer proceeding
direct to Marseilles and London; other
cargo for London, &c., will be conveyed via
Bombay.Parcels will be received at this Office until
4 P.M. the day before sailing. The contents and
value of all packages are required.Shippers are particularly requested to note
the terms and conditions of the Company's
Bills of Lading.

For further particulars, apply to

E. A. HEWETT,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 9th May, 1904.

REGULAR
STEAMSHIP SERVICE TO NEW
YORK.VIA PORTS AND SUEZ CANAL
(WITH LIBERTY TO CALL AT PHILIPPINE
PORTS).PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.
1904. About

"SATSUMA" ... 3rd June.

"RICHMOND CASTLE" ... 15th June.

"ST. FILLANS" ... 30th June.

"LOWTHE CASTLE" ... 31st July.

For Freight and further information, apply to

DODWELL & CO. LTD.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 9th May, 1904.

EASTERN AND AUSTRALIAN STEAM-
SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.FOR SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.
(Calling at TIRIO, PORT DAWIN AND QUEEN-
SLAND PORTS, and taking through Cargo
to ADELAIDE, NEW ZEALAND, TASMANIA,
&c.)

THE Steamship

"EASTERN,"

Captain Ellis, will be despatched for the
above ports on SATURDAY, the 4th June, at
NOON.This well-known Steamer is specially fitted
for Passengers, and has a Refrigerating Cham-
ber, which ensures the supply of Fresh Pro-
visions, Ice, &c., throughout the voyage.This Steamer is installed throughout with
the Electric Light.A Stewardess and a duly qualified Surgeon
are carried.N.B.—To assure the additional comfort of
passengers the Steamers of the Company have
electric fans fitted in staterooms.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 17th May, 1904.

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DEBTS

NEITHER the CAPTAIN, the AGENTS, nor
the OWNERS will be RESPONSIBLE
for any DEBT contracted by the Officers or
the Crew of the following Vessels during the
stay in Hongkong Harbour.ECLIPSE, British 4-m. que. J. McBrayne
Standard Oil Co.LYNDHURST, British 4-m. barque, Parnall
Standard Oil Co.GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 17th May, 1904.

[1266]

NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Steamship

"SILVERLIP."

having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby
informed that their Goods are being landed and
stored at their risk, into the Godowns of the
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown
Co., Limited, whence delivery may be obtained.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless
notice to the contrary be given before 10 A.M.,
TO-DAY, the 14th inst.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining
undelivered after the 21st May, will be subject
to rent.All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are
to be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined on Saturday, the 21st May, at 2.30 P.M.All Claims must reach us before the 24th May,
or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the
undersigned.ARNHOLD KARBERG & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 14th May, 1904. [1255]

STEAMSHIP "AUSTRALIEN."
COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES
MARITIMES.

NOTICE.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo from London ex.s.s.

Dordogne and Sinai, from Havre ex.s.s.
Strait, from Bordeaux ex.s.s. Ville de Marseille
and Ville de Lorient, in connection with above
Steamer, are hereby informed that their Goods,
with the exception of Opium, Treasure and
Valuables, are being landed and stored at their
risks into the Godowns of the Hongkong and
Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., at
Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained
immediately after landing.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded on unless
intimation is received from the Consignees
between NOON, TO-DAY, 14th inst., requesting
it to be landed here.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the
undersigned. Goods remaining unclaimed after
Monday, the 23rd May, at Noon, will be
subject to rent and landing charges.

All claims must be sent in to me on or before
the 23rd May, or they will not be recognised.

All damaged packages will be examined on
Monday, the 23rd May, at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX,
Agent.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1904. [1254]

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY,
LIMITED, AND
CHINA MUTUAL STEAM NAVIGATION
COMPANY, LIMITED.

CONSIGNEES per Company's Steamer

"CALCHAS."

are hereby notified that the Cargo is being
discharged into Craft, and/or landed at the
Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon
Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., where in both
cases it will lie at Consignees' risk. The Cargo
will be ready for delivery from Craft or Godown
on and after the 18th instant.

Optional cargo will be landed, unless notice
has been given prior to steamer's arrival.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are
to be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined at 11 A.M. on the 23rd inst.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the steamer's Godown, and all Goods
remaining undelivered after the 23rd inst., will
be subject to rent.

All Claims against the Steamer must be
presented to the undersigned on or before the
26th inst., or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agent.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1904. [1255]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamer

"TIENTSIN."

FROM BOMBAY AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named
vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are
being landed and placed at their risk in the
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown
Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each
consignment will be sorted out, Mark by Marks
and delivery can be obtained as soon as the
Goods are landed.

Goods not cleared by the 23rd inst., at 4 P.M.
will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in
any case whatever.

Damaged packages must be left in the Go-
downs for examination by the Consignee's and
the Company's representative at an appointed
hour. All Claims must be presented within
ten days of the steamer's arrival here, after
which date they cannot be recognised. No
Claims will be admitted after the Goods have
left the Godowns.

E. A. HEWETT,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 17th May, 1904. [1256]

FOR NERVOUS
EXHAUSTION

CHAPOTEAUTS

Phospho
Glycerate
of LimeFor Nervous Troubles
in Adults and ChildrenSOLD IN
Capsules, in Syrup,
and in Wine

Increases vital energy and nerve force.

Full instructions with each bottle

CHAPOTEAUT—PARIS, FRANCE

1265-4

PRINTING OF ALL KINDS at the most
moderate prices at

THE "DAILY PRESS" OFFICE

All proofs are read and all work
superintended by Englishmen. Always
equal and generally superior to that
done anywhere else. Estimates given.

Portuguese, 1883.

FINAL PROTOCOL made between China and
Eleven Powers, 1901.

TREATIES WITH JAPAN

POST OFFICE NOTICES.

Until further notice the transmission of correspondence via Dalny and the Trans-Siberian Railway is discontinued.

On Monday and Tuesday next, being Government Holidays the General Post Office will be open from 8 to 9 a.m. only. The Money Order Office will be entirely closed.

The *Coronardel*, with the English mail of the 22nd ult., left Singapore on Saturday, the 14th inst., at 6 p.m., and may be expected here to-day. This packet brings replies to letters despatched from Hongkong on the 22nd March.

MAILS WILL CLOSE

FOR

PEE

DATE.

Canton
Swatow, Singapore and Bangkok
Bavaria
Mauritius
Macao
Singapore
Nagasaki, Kobe, and Yokohama
Hoikow and Bangkok
Nanmiao
Samboe
Macao
Canton
Kongmoo, Kuchuk and Samshui
Canton
Haiphong
Swatow, Amoy and Foochow
Macao
Swatow and Shanghai
Swatow, Chefoo and Tientsin
Manila, Cebu and Illoilo
Kongmoo, Kuchuk and Samshui
Nanmiao
Samboe
Macao
Canton
Moj, Koo, Yokohama, Victoria, B.C. & Tacoma
Amoy, Kuchuk, Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe
Yokohama, Victoria and Vancouver

EUROPE, &c., India via Tunicor...
(Last Letters 11.00 to 11.30 A.M. Extra Postage 10 cents.)
(Letters posted in the Peak Pillar Boxes in time for the first clearance will be included in this contract mail.)

Straits and Rangoon
Shanghai, Chinkiang and Wuhu
Shanghai
Shanghai
Shanghai
Shanghai
Shanghai
Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, YOKOHAMA, HONOLULU and SAN FRANCISCO

EUROPE, &c., India via Tunicor...
(Last Letters 11.00 to 11.30 A.M. Extra Postage 10 cents.)
(Letters posted in the Peak Pillar Boxes in time for the first clearance will be included in this contract mail.)

Manila
Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, YOKOHAMA, VICTORIA and VANCOUVER (B.C.)
(Supplementary mail on board up to the time fixed for departure of the mail Extra Postage 10 cents.)

Thursday Island, Cooktown, Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne

TO-DAY.

Sale, Stores, Dowdell & Co., Godowns, Wau-chai, Morris, Hughes & Hough, 10.30 a.m.
Dallas Co., Theatre Royal, 9 p.m.

TO-MORROW.

Sale, Household Furniture, No. 52, Hollywood Road, Mr. Geo. P. Lammet, 2.30 p.m.

COMMERCIAL.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
18th May.

ON LONDON.—
Telegraphic Transfer 1.91
Bank Bills, on demand 1.91
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1.91
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1.91
Credits, at 4 months' sight 1.91
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight/10

ON PARIS.—
Bank Bills, on demand 2.25
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.29

ON GERMANY.—
On demand 1.83

ON NEW YORK.—
Bank Bills, on demand 4.33
Credits, 60 days' sight 4.42

ON BOMBAY.—
Telegraphic Transfer 133

Bank, on demand 1.34

ON CALCUTTA.—
Telegraphic Transfer 133

Bank, on demand 1.34

ON SHANGHAI.—
Bank, at sight 72

Private, 30 days' sight 72

ON YOKOHAMA.—
On demand 88

ON BANGLA.—
On demand Nominal

ON SINGAPORE.—
On demand Nominal

ON BATAVIA.—
On demand 107

ON HAIPHONG.—
On demand 21 p.m.

ON SAIGON.—
On demand 2 p.m.

ON BANGKOK.—
On demand 25 p.m.

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate \$11.05

GOLI LEAF, 100 lbs., per ton \$58.10

BAE SILVER, per oz. 25

OPIUM.

16th May.

Quotations are:—Allowance not to 1 cent.
Malwa New \$1020 to \$1060 per picul

Malwa Old \$1080 to \$1120

Malwa Older \$1140 to \$1180

Malwa V. Old \$1920 to \$1220

Persian fine quality \$880 to —

Persian New \$1230 to — per chon.

Bata Old \$1320 to —

Pearles New \$1310 to —

Balares Old \$1300 to —

VESSELS EXPECTED.

THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The P. & O. steamer *Coronardel* left Singapo-
re for this port on the 14th inst., at 6 p.m.,
and is due here on the 19th inst., at about noon.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Indo-China steamer *Kunming*, from Cal-
cutta and the Straits, left Singapore for this
port on the 18th inst., at 10th a.m., and may be
expected here on the 23rd inst.

THE GERMAN MAIL.

The Imperial German mail steamer *Bayern*
left Kobe via Nagasaki and Shanghai on the
16th inst., and may be expected here on the
25th inst.

THE AMERICAN AND CANADIAN MAIL.

The C.P.R. steamer *Empress of China* arrived
at Yokohama at 5.30 a.m. on Monday, the 16th
inst., and left again at 4 p.m. same day for Kobe,
where she is due to arrive at 4 p.m. on Tuesday,
the 17th inst.

THE AMERICAN MAIL.

The P. M. steamer *Mongolia* left San Fran-
cisco for this port via Honolulu, &c., on the
7th inst.

HONGKONG REGISTER

Previous day 4 p.m.	On date at 10 a.m.	On date at 4 p.m.
Barometer 29.91	29.96	29.90
Humidity 81	83	76
Direction of wind —	E	W
Force 0	2	3
Weather b	c	c
Bar.	0.23	

Highest open air temperature on the 17th 79
Lowest open air temperature on the 17th 73
Hongkong Observatory, 18th May.

FOR EUROPE AND AMERICA,
INDIA, AUSTRALIA, &c.,
and for

PRIVATE RESIDENTS AT THE OUTPORTS.

A COMPREHENSIVE AND COMPLETE RECORD

OF THE

NEWS OF THE FAR EAST

is given in the

HONGKONG WEEKLY PRESS,

with which is incorporated

THE CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

Subscription, if paid in advance, \$12 per annum

Postage to any part of the World \$2.

ON SALE.

MAP OF THE SIKIANG or WEST RIVER

From HONGKONG to WUCHOWFU,

Showing the Ports and Calling Places

Opened to Foreign Trade, 1897.

Published at Daily Press Office.

Price 25 Cents, Cash.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1897.

[913]

HONGKONG HIGH-LEVEL TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

TIME TABLE.

WEEK DAYS.

1.30 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. Every 10 minutes.
8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. Every 10 minutes.
9.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. Every 15 minutes.
1.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. Every 16 minutes.
12.45 p.m. to 1.15 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
1.15 p.m. to 1.45 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
1.45 p.m. to 2.15 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
2.15 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
3.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
3.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
4.00 p.m. to 4.45 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
4.45 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
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7.15 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
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3.00 a.m. to 3.30 a.m. Every 15 minutes.
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4.00 p.m. to 4.45 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
4.45 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
5.15 p.m. to 5.45 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
5.45 p.m. to 6.15 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
6.15 p.m.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DEBATE ON THE OPIUM BILL.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on Tuesday, the Attorney-General, Hon. Sir Henry S. Borkley, in moving the second reading of the Opium Bill said—Your Excellency,—"The amendments to the Opium Ordinance are necessary to effect that protection to the Opium Farmer from illicit sales of opium to which he is rightfully entitled. The necessity for amending the Ordinance, sir, arises from the difficulty of putting such a construction upon the present definition of the words "prepared opium" and "preparation of opium" that exist in the present Ordinance. The definition of "prepared opium" in the Ordinance as it stands is as follows—"Prepared opium shall so far as relates to infringement of the Opium Farmer's privilege of preparing opium for the Colony mean opium which has been subjected to any degree of artificial heat for any purpose whatever"; and the definition of preparation is "subjecting of opium to any kind to any degree of artificial heat for any purpose whatsoever." Now, persons have been importing into this Colony opium and using it in the preparation of so-called anti-opium—whatever that may mean—pills and wine; and on appearing before the Magistrate the prosecution has failed, because though it was easy enough to prove that these wine and pills were each a preparation of opium, still in neither case could the learned Magistrate be satisfied that any degree of artificial heat had been used in the preparation thereof. Still, of course, sir, it is obvious at once that it was a technical objection which was fatal to the operation of the Ordinance which is intended for the protection of the Opium Farmer—it is obvious that it is quite impossible, say, for any witness to say whether any opium brought from Canton and shipped here for preparation of pills and wine had been at any time subjected to any degree of artificial heat. Given the principle therefore of the proper protection of the farmer in the monopoly which this Government from the authority vested in it has granted to him—according that principle it is obvious that it is the clear duty of the Government and of this Council to pass such a measure as will give the farmer that protection to which he is entitled. Well, sir, it is not necessary, but at the same time it is just as well for us to remember that the amount paid by the opium farmer for farming the monopoly for the exclusive privilege—and we must remember it is an exclusive privilege that he has—of dealing in opium is in itself extremely large and is greatly in excess of that which has been paid by any farmer in previous years; and though I have heard it put forward as a reason why nothing should be done in the present circumstances that these illicit sales have been going on for a long period in the past—that may be perfectly true, still in view of the fact that the farmer to-day is paying more than three times what his predecessors paid, it may equally be true—in fact it seems to me it is obviously more true—that he as a prudent man of business can no longer be content to overlook that which did not matter so much to his predecessors who were paying so much less for the exclusive right they had. Now, sir, from enquiries that have been made since the necessity for these amendments was brought to the notice of this Government, it appears that this illicit competition has increased since the farmer has proposed to increase his prices somewhat. It will be seen at once that when a man gives three times as much as his predecessor was paying for the article he is entitled to sell, it is only to be supposed that some increase in the price to the public will follow. It is to be admitted that the farmer, exercising in that respect the right which he has, has somewhat increased his prices, but it must also be admitted that that increase has been trifling. The increase in the selling price of opium by the opium farmer has been trifling. Enquiries have shown that the price has increased by one-fifth only, and one-fifth is I say trifling. That, I put it to the house, can anybody consider an undue increase in view of the fact that the opium farmer now pays \$2,000,000 per annum.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI:—More than that!

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—And more, the hon. and learned member remarks. Therefore if it is more it makes the increase all the more trifling. One-fifth only, however, is charged for the opium and more than three times is paid to the revenue itself. Meantime the sales of the opium farmer have fallen enormously. The falling off too has not been due to any less consumption. It cannot in fairness all be attributed to the small increase of one-fifth. What it is due to the excessive illicit introduction, preparation, and sale in this Colony of opium, which, I say, unless it is checked will render it impossible probably—at any rate extremely difficult—for the opium farmer to fulfil the conditions of the tender which he has entered into in this Colony. Now, I propose to deal shortly with one or two suggestions which I believe will be urged by my hon. and learned friend opposite [Mr. Pollock] to the progress of this measure. The first, as I understand it, is that it is a great hardship to prevent the sale of opium-pills and wine by persons who have hitherto been licensed or permitted by former opium farmers to sell them, and also secondly, to prevent the sale of these opium wine and pills would be to force the opium habit upon persons who are struggling to free themselves from it. Now, sir, neither of those assertions stand for a moment when examined. Take the first—the hardship upon those who have hitherto been engaged either in selling opium wine and pills, by permission or by overlooking or by licence from the opium farmer. Now we also have made enquiries into that assertion because the last thing this Government desires is to inflict hardship upon anybody; and from the report made by the hon. Registrar-General it appears that there are some 33 firms who deal in opium-wine and wine, and of these 33 only five of them deal in these articles exclusively. But the other 28 were general dealers who turned—I cannot call it an honest penny, by the additional sales of opium-pills and wine. But I say as to quantum, of these 33 there were only five, so we must deal with five and see what hardship would be to them. But even suppose there were 33. The largest of these dealers did a business which he admitted to amount to—what do you think?—\$100 a month total sales, and not net gross sales; and he admitted to the Registrar-General, and we have it in the report, that after deducting out-of-pocket expenses his profit—the largest profit—amounted to about \$35 a month. Now, where is the hardship? Even suppose the opium farmer had been allowing those persons or inducing them to sell these opium wine and pills, I say there is no hardship there. It is clear therefore, I put it to you, that while a great loss is inflicted upon the opium farmer by the infringement of his privilege, the loss to the individual dealers is comparatively small.

HIS EXCELLENCY:—I think you will recollect that the report of the Registrar-General stated that this \$100 a month was taken by the largest retail dealer.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—I understood I did say a retail dealer. He has the largest retail business, and he admitted that his sales did

not exceed \$100 a month, and only dealt with that argument because it put a wrong aspect on this matter. It is an *ad capitulum* argument and has no force otherwise. The question is not whether it is a hardship or not to prevent a man who has been for a long course of time in illicit business from any longer engaging in it, but whether or not the opium farmer, when he comes to this Council to be protected from the illicit dealers, is entitled to that protection. From the moral point of view, the question of hardship ought not to enter for a single moment. It was the case of a smuggler who for a long course of time had been in the habit of smuggling, and the authorities had either been careless or had looked the other way. The illicit opium seller has absolutely no claim to the consideration of this Council for one single moment. The man who is entitled to consideration and protection is the honest opium farmer who pays \$2,000,000 a year towards the revenue of this country to be accorded the privilege of exclusively dealing in opium. How can he be said to get the privilege if A, B, C, and D are illicitly competing with him in the same business? But at the same time, though unnecessary for me to have to deal with the question of hardship, it is gratifying to know that in any particular proceeding one is not indicating a hardship, and I put it to you that I have shown you that, even if hardship were any argument, which it is not, there is no question of my objections to the second reading of this Bill have vanished. But one point only I still think he did not explain away, and that is that point which, so far as I am concerned, determines my opposition to the second reading of the Bill. It is quite true, sir, that we as members of this Council do all we can to protect the public revenue, but at the same time I submit, sir, that we should do so only without injuring private interests, without undue hardship upon those whom a measure of this kind would injure. Now, the learned Attorney-General has quoted me, from a private enquiry—which by the way, might have been made a little bit more public on both sides and might have been read by them—that there were 33 firms concerned in dealing with opium pills and wine. Well, of course, personally I have nothing to do with them—with these dealers in opium pills and wine; I know nothing. I take his word for it. And he said only five of them are really wholesale dealers or were principally dealing in wine and pills exclusively, and it would be a perfect right to be protected in a legitimate business, and I shall show that this is a legitimate business. With regard to the learned Attorney-General, there is another point he tried to make, I think, and that was that the trade in these pills or wine was after all a comparatively small matter. But the hon. senior member for the Chinese said he had taken up from the very outset that it was not their sole business, but, sir, although it is not their sole business it is a business; and as my hon. and learned friend the senior member for the Chinese has pointed out it is a question of principle upon which a stand must be taken. A party has a perfect right to be protected in a legitimate business, and I shall show that this is a legitimate business. Preparation is the subjecting of opium of any kind to any degree of artificial heat and for that purpose shall be taken to be the preparing of such opium. Therefore it is quite clear what prepared opium means. It is quite clear what preparation means and what preparing means. The opium farmer stands or falls by this Ordinance. What has happened? Certain prosecutions—I do not know whether one or more—but at any rate a prosecution was instituted at the instance of the opium farmer at the Magistracy. The Magistrate decided that he could not possibly say it was prepared opium and dismissed the case. That so far as this Council is concerned disposes of the matter until it is brought before some higher tribunal for an absolute finding on the question of law. The opium farmer of course has his own legal advisers, and it is a matter which I think is well known that he has behind him some very clever and learned legal advisers, gentlemen who are perfectly able to protect his interests, and if they had considered that the decision of the Magistrate was wrong or in the smallest degree open to question of course they would have advised him to take the matter at once up to the Supreme Court. Therefore to call these men smugglers was an entire misnomer. They were carrying on a business which so far as the decision of the Court was concerned had been decided to be legal. It has been decided at the Magistracy and the decision of the Magistracy would be taken by this Council; and I say without the slightest hesitation that the decision of the Magistrate was right. There has been no attempt to take the matter up before the higher tribunal; there had been no attempt to institute proceedings in any case but one, and the very able legal advisers at the back of the opium farmer felt that they could do nothing—that the case was hopeless. That was the only possible explanation of their not having taken the matter up to the Supreme Court.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—Probably the Supreme Court would have said the Magistrate was right.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK:—To speak of these men as smugglers is preposterous when the Magistrate has decided that their business is legal.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—He did not decide that. He decided that in a certain case brought before him he would not say that the opium which had been sold had been subjected to any degree of heat. Now we propose to put in a clear definition in order to protect the opium farmer.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK:—If these people were liable to be proceeded against at law they would have been proceeded against; the matter would

have been carried up to the higher Court. It was found that they could not be proceeded against and therefore it was entirely a misnomer to speak of them as "illicit dealers or sellers." This trade has been carried on in this Colony not merely for ten and 50 and 60 years past. It is just as lawful and legitimate a business as selling sugar. Now, what is the position of the opium farmer? It is suggested or rather implied that he is being subjected to some hardship. I say to that emphatically, No. He has got exactly what he contracted for, what he tendered to get. Everybody is presumed to know the law, and it is unthinkable that in this particular case before the farmer tendered for this privilege he did not know that prepared opium of course is an expression which may mean a great many different things. If a man came to a lawyer about a tender for prepared opium, the first question the lawyer would ask would be, "What do you mean by 'prepared opium'?" But here of course we know what is meant because we passed a special Ordinance to deal with it. It was passed 13 years ago, and therefore one would think that by the process of filtration in people's minds people would at all events have some idea of what was meant by "prepared opium." What did the Ordinance say about "prepared opium"? It was in Section 2 of the Ordinance in which prepared opium was defined and, sir, you will see it is not merely defined but is defined in such a way that shows clearly that it is defined for the express and specific purpose of considering how the privilege which is granted to the opium farmer to prepare opium shall as far as relates to the infringement of the opium farmer's privilege of preparing opium within this Colony mean—what shall it mean?—mean opium which has been subjected to any degree of artificial heat for any purpose whatever and shall include dress opium whenever such a construction is consistent with the contents. Well, sir, what could be clearer than that? There is not merely a definition of prepared opium there, but it is a definition of prepared opium which is expressly stated to relate to the infringement of the opium farmer's privilege. It is a provision of the law so that not merely the opium farmer but anybody else who deals in any way with any mixture of a chemical material in which opium occurs may know perfectly clearly what is meant by the words "prepared opium." And that, sir, was passed by the Legislature, that provision is enacted by the Legislature not merely for the purpose of informing the opium farmer but also for the purpose of informing other people. It is not merely necessary that the opium farmer should know the extent to which he is protected but it is also necessary that other people should know it clearly defined what they may do or may not do vis à vis the opium farmer. Therefore this express provision was passed defining what prepared opium is to be and it is expressly limited, as your Excellency will see, to opium which has been subjected to any degree of artificial heat for any purpose whatever, and I think it extremely probable, as the learned senior member for the Chinese has suggested, that the reason why that definition was adopted was that the Legislature intended to legislate for and had in their mind the preparation for the purpose of smoking, and that is probably the reason why these words are inserted there. Then, sir, as if to make sure that there could be no possibility of mistake, farther down in the same section of Ordinance 21 of 1891 there is a definition of preparation. Preparation, the subjecting of opium of any kind to any degree of artificial heat for any purpose whatever, shall be taken to be the preparing of such opium. Therefore, sir, the test there in that definition of preparation, as in the test of prepared opium, is the test whether or not the opium has been subjected to any kind or degree of artificial heat. If it has not been subjected, if it does not within that, then no person in this Colony, no Magistrate, no Judge, no member of the executive can possibly say that opium has been prepared.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—That Ordinance is a dead letter.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK:—That definition of prepared opium is expressly made with reference to the opium farmer's privilege. Now in this matter, as has been shown by the petition from the dealers in opium pills or wine, they have been dealing in these pills and wine in this Colony

judges on the point? He neglected or omitted to do so, and he is now appealing to us to pass an ordinance creating new rights for him. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—No; merely to make the definition clear.

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK:—New rights are provided.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI:—I will give you an example. Supposing I have lot premises on lease, and in that lease I make use of certain terms giving the lessee certain rights of way and so on. That is settled. Presently, the tenant turns round on me and says: "You gave me a right of way, and I have other rights;" that means right of way and right, also of support or anything else. I say: "No; I simply gave you certain rights of way and no more. Such other rights means rights belonging to the same class as a right of way." The lessee says: "I will go to law about it." Suppose he loses his case. "Well," he says, "I cannot get a decision against you in the law court, so I will apply to the Government to have them for an Ordinance under which a right of way and such other rights shall be held to mean the rights I have mentioned." Is it just that the Legislature should assist persons of this kind to re-define the words of their contracts, making those words include certain things which were not contemplated by the use of the terms in that contract? It is on this particular principle that I found my opposition to the second reading of this Bill. The learned Attorney-General also mentioned that the Opium Farmer thinks it impossible for him to license these opium pills and wine dealers on account of the difficulty, I suppose, of preventing illicit dealing; as it would be if this Bill was passed. I am one of those who would propose a solution of the present difficulty by this means, and I regret that the opium farmer does not think it feasible for him to adopt a system of licensing and so obviate such an ordinance as the one before us, which means the extinction of a very large trade altogether. If he charged a certain fee for a license to sellers of opium pills and wine, which, by the way, is only a very trifling trade, though it is at the same time represented as being to interfere tremendously with the profits of the opium farmer.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—A very small aggregate by the individual; but very large in the aggregate.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI:—You are affecting, then, a very large trade.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—It is infinitesimal individually.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI:—But the aggregate is considerable. By charging a licensing fee it seems to me that the justice of the case would be met. Refusal to grant such licenses means the total abolition of the trade of these dealers and the goodwill of their businesses, by one stroke of the pen, will be transferred to the opium farmer. There must be a goodwill in this as in every trade.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—But these men cannot have a goodwill. How can you employ that legal expression in connection with a person who sells illicitly. Under the ordinance I contend that the trade is illicit. If you look up Sections 9 and 10 of the present Opium Ordinance you will find that no person can have prepared opium in his possession, nor prepared opium.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI:—I contend that under that ordinance the sale of these things is not illicit.

I contend that the word as applied to these dealers by the learned Attorney-General is a mistake, and my argument is that the Bill now before the Council will deprive them of their trade and goodwill. Of course, if the learned Attorney-General convinces me—I am certainly open to conviction—(hear, hear)—that dealing in these articles is illicit; if the opium farmer has taken a case to the higher court and the judges had held the trade to be illicit—no one would have been a stronger supporter of this Bill than I. I do not hold a brief for either party, and I wish to protect the revenue of the Colony. There is just one other point that has struck me. I believe that unless it is perfectly clearly established that the sale of opium pills and wine is illicit the Secretary of State at home would not view a Bill of this kind with favour. I consider it my duty and maintain that it is the duty of all the unofficial members of the Council to look after the rights of the public and even of an individual case in which rights are jeopardised—for after all, the public life is simply the aggregate individual life—and that we should consider well before passing an ordinance of this kind which will include new rights in the concession or monopoly to the opium farmer and impose very great hardships to the extent of depriving many people of the right to continue their trade in this Colony. I do not think I can generally go on to discuss other points because, as I say, I have endeavoured to place before the Council my one objection to the Bill and if that one objection is removed I would be very glad to give the Bill my support.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK:—next rose to speak.

HIS EXCELLENCY:—I should be very much obliged if you will inform me what the position is exactly of these petitions. This Council has received two petitions; one purports to emanate from certain members of the general community and the other from the shops dealing in these pills. Both of these petitions have been forwarded to us through a somewhat unusual channel—the channel of the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce. I shall be very glad to be informed whether the hon. member in the exercise of his profession has drawn these petitions, has been paid for drawing them, and is to be remunerated for advocating the prayer contained in these petitions before this Council?

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK:—Your Excellency, in reply to the questions which have been just put to me, I did prepare these petitions professionally for the parties on behalf of the parties for whom they are prepared. There is no secret about it. And I forwarded the petitions to the Government. With regard to the other question which has been put, I think, your Excellency, that it was hardly necessary and hardly proper that such a question should be put. I found there were certain persons in this Colony selling opium wine and opium pills which we will assume for the moment interfered with his business. He summoned one of these persons before the Magistrate who enquired into the case and decided that he could not hold that opium which was contained in opium pills or wine, as the case might be, came within the Opium Ordinance.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—Because he could not prove it.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI:—No one can prepare opium in this Colony except the farmer, or other person having his consent. Now let us consider the words "prepared opium." Every hon. member of this Council knows that with the law before him the opium farmer knows that law when he tendered for it.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK:—Your Excellency, in reply to the questions which have been just put to me, I did prepare these petitions professionally for the parties on behalf of the parties for whom they are prepared. There is no secret about it. And I forwarded the petitions to the Government. With regard to the other question which has been put, I think, your Excellency, that it was hardly necessary and hardly proper that such a question should be put. I found there were certain persons in this Colony selling opium wine and opium pills which we will assume for the moment interfered with his business. He summoned one of these persons before the Magistrate who enquired into the case and decided that he could not hold that opium which was contained in opium pills or wine, as the case might be, came within the Opium Ordinance.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—Because he could not prove it.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI:—Well, it was not prepared opium, and the Magistrate could not say that it was.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK:—I think he is prepared, recognising as we all do the good work the Tung Wah Hospital does in this country, to recognise the right of the hospital authorities to prescribe pills and wine to its in-patients without restriction of any kind except this, which cannot be called a restriction, that the pills and wine are obtained from him. And also he is prepared to do more. He is prepared, and I think it is reasonable, to supply these opium pills and wine free, and that, I think, is generous, so we have the opium farmer here both reasonable in his demands and generous in his intentions. But he cannot consent that the Tung Wah Hospital should supply all its outpatients in a similar manner. Surely, gentlemen, that is not unreasonable because the reason

for a great number of years. I think, analysing that position, it would be seen that 16 of these firms out of the 33 have been dealing in this Colony unmitigated in opium pills or wine for 30 years or over; 24 out of the 33 have been dealing in this Colony, *inter alia*, in pills or wine, for 20 years or over; and 40 firms—roughly half—have been dealing in these pills or wine in this Colony for ten years or over. Some have been going on actually for 50 years, and one 60 years. Therefore, as will be seen, it is a long-established business, and yet those people who have been carrying on this business without lot or hindrance for so many years are chased by the Law Officer of the Crown as smugglers. They are put in the same category as the people who are running a blockade, acting in breach of the law, and the expression is used constantly by him of "illicit sales." What does "illicit" mean? "Illicit" means unlawful or contrary to law; and it is not unlawful or contrary to law to sell opium in any way which does not infringe the opium farmer's privilege or this Ordinance which was passed to back him up unless the opium comes within the definition of a preparation subjected to any degree of artificial heat for any purpose whatever. And preparation, I may mention, to make my meaning absolutely clear, in the definition is expressly stated as to be understood by the expression "preparing of opium." Preparation is the subjecting of opium of any kind to any degree of artificial heat and for that purpose shall be taken to be the preparing of such opium. Therefore it is quite clear what preparation means. The opium farmer stands or falls by this Ordinance. What has happened? Certain prosecutions—I do not know whether one or more—but at any rate a prosecution was instituted at the instance of the opium farmer at the Magistracy. The Magistrate decided that he could not possibly say it was prepared opium and dismissed the case. That so far as this Council is concerned disposes of the matter until it is brought before some higher tribunal for an absolute finding on the question of law. The opium farmer of course has his own legal advisers, and it is a matter which I think is well known that he has behind him some very clever and learned legal advisers, gentlemen who are perfectly able to protect his interests, and if they had considered that the decision of the Magistrate was wrong or in the smallest degree open to question of course they would have advised him to take the matter at once up to the Supreme Court. Therefore to call these men smugglers was an entire misnomer. They were carrying on a business which so far as the decision of the Court was concerned had been decided to be legal. It has been decided at the Magistracy and the decision of the Magistracy would be taken by this Council; and I say without the slightest hesitation that the decision of the Magistrate was right. There has been no attempt to take the matter up before the higher tribunal; there had been no attempt to institute proceedings in any case but one, and the very able legal advisers at the back of the opium farmer felt that they could do nothing—that the case was hopeless. That was the only possible explanation of their not having taken the matter up to the Supreme Court.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—Probably the Supreme Court would have said the Magistrate was right.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK:—To speak of these men as smugglers is preposterous when the Magistrate has decided that their business is legal.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—He did not decide that. He decided that in a certain case brought before him he would not say that the opium which had been sold had been subjected to any degree of heat. Now we propose to put in a clear definition in order to protect the opium farmer.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK:—If these people were liable to be proceeded against at law they would have been proceeded against; the matter would

this Colony, on the ground that such pills and wine afford a means of rescue from the degrading vice of opium-smoking, such pills and wine containing many other ingredients in addition to opium or dross." These people say that they can call evidence on the point, and in the last paragraph of the petition they suggest that if the Government is not satisfied with what is stated here a commission should be appointed. Now, sir, what have the Government done? There has been a kind of secret investigation by the Registrar-General.

His EXCELLENCE—I do not think you are entitled to call it secret.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK.—It is entirely secret from this Council; that is what I mean.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—Official.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK.—It is a purely unofficial enquiry so far as this Council is concerned.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—It is conducted by a high officer of the Government and must be official.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK.—I do not agree with the Attorney-General. It is carried out by an official but is not official. At any rate it is not a public enquiry, or by a commission of some other public body such as parties have a right to expect at the hands of this Government. These parties are prepared to call witnesses to show that in some cases at all events the taking of opium pills has had beneficial effects in weaning people from the habit. I quite agree with the hon. Attorney-General—it is one of the few points on which I can agree with him—that it is a pity that people cannot rescue themselves from this habit by more strength of will. We must all feel that but we must also feel that some people are so constituted that these particular means are needed to wean them, no doubt gradually, from the habit of opium smoking; and I submit, sir, there being this strong body of Chinese opinion against this measure, that at all events the least the Government could do would be to hold a public commission of enquiry. I think it will be found that in England in recent times at any rate has such a measure as this been passed affecting several firms without full enquiry of some sort having been held into it. As I say, there seems to have been some sort of enquiry by the Registrar-General, but do not think so far as the Council is concerned that we know anything about the particulars, excepting your Excellency, the Attorney-General, and the Registrar-General. We as a body do not know to what extent the Registrar-General has proceeded in this matter, what inquiries he has made, or what answer he has got. We are only told a partial result of his negotiations by the Attorney-General. This is not a satisfactory way of dealing with the matter, and it is not a way which would command itself to those who are most anxious as everybody should be not to interfere with people's business except after the fullest enquiry. Of course every member of this Council must feel that it is a big sum which the opium farmer has to pay for the monopoly in this Colony, but I agree with Dr. Ho Kai that that is a matter which ought to be. I am afraid it is not entirely irrelevant to the present discussion. The question is whether the Council by passing this measure will be doing an act of justice or injustice and I submit that upon a private enquiry by a Government official the Government is not justified in putting through this measure without a commission being appointed, and then we shall see and probably be convinced that such a measure as this is desirable. But we cannot be convinced now. Here is a business to-day; you propose to make it illegal to-morrow, and as a foundation for that measure you have simply to go upon the report of an officer of the Government who, I have no doubt, has gone into the matter to the best of his lights; but still we do not know what has been done in the scope of his investigations, and it has been conducted apparently from the point of view of the Government with the idea of supplying the Government with some answers to these petitions which have been sent in. I think the Registrar-General could hardly have approached the subject with an unbiased mind. What is a decidedly unbiased commission should be appointed and the whole question gone into. I need hardly point out that it is a general principle of law which is generally followed out by courts of law that so far as possible—so chary are our courts of depriving anybody of rights without compensation—an Ordinance or a statute should be construed in such a way as not to take away a man's rights without his receiving compensation. The courts always lean towards such construing of an Ordinance. They recognise that it is *prima facie* unjust to take away a man's business arbitrarily without compensation, and yet the Government proposes to take away these people's rights without giving them any compensation whatsoever. That, as Dr. Ho Kai pointed out, is a very important principle; the taking away of people's rights is very unjust and unfair, and a point upon which hon. members of Council should take a firm stand. It is radically unjust to take away people's rights in this way and members of Council should not be parties to it. It is most unsatisfactory that all we should have to go upon in coming to a decision on this matter is merely the report of a Government officer which is not before us at all. The Attorney-General stated that the opium farmer could come here to-day and say, "I stand upon my legal rights and demand nothing but justice." Language like that sounds very beautiful from the opium farmer to us, but he does not stand upon his legal rights; the drawback is that that is not correct. What he says is, "I find I have not sufficient rights; I want to be protected and I want sufficient legislation to support me." He does not stand upon his present legal rights at all. He wants the Government to alter the Ordinance, to extend his rights and privileges by law, and as showing that the farmer feels the weakness of his position, and that his legal advisers know it also, one has only to consider those who were referred to by the Attorney-General. The farmer in return for the business of the dealers in opium wine and pills which the Attorney-General admits to be large in the aggregate—for getting all this into his pocket he is prepared to do what I would do in his place—to dole out certain concessions. He does not stand upon his rights but wants his rights altered, and as the return for extending his rights at the expense of other people he does out some concession. That, sir, is his position. I do not know that there is any other point I should refer to, but it shows the disadvantage an unofficial is under when he comes here, for he finds the Government has prejudiced the whole question.

His EXCELLENCE—I object to that remark of the hon. member that the Government come here with the whole case prejudiced.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK.—I will explain. This Bill has been postponed for two months or nearly two months.

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And now it has been brought on again.

It means that the Executive of this Colony has decided that it is a good thing to pass this measure; and it is a well-known fact that the official members of this Council are not at liberty to express their individual or private opinions. Therefore unofficial members

come here very often practically with their case prejudged.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.—That is irrelevant.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK.—The Colonial Secretary may call it irrelevant, but it is a somewhat disheartening position for a member to occupy in this Council. The hon. member may think it irrelevant, but I think the correctness of it cannot possibly be denied. But if the matter has not been prejudged it seems to me that if your Excellency desires unbiased opinion from the members of this Council by leaving the official members absolutely free to vote as they like that will be a very fair solution of that difficulty. Again I say it is very unsatisfactory that the case should be before us without a commission having gone into it and the whole matter being threshed out. I oppose the second reading.

Hon. GERRON STEWART.—Your Excellency, I have no intention of addressing the Council on such a technical matter as opium until Mr. Pollock made his concluding remarks in which he left it to be inferred that the unofficial members were entirely with him in opposing this Bill. I have had one or two conversations about it and I must say I support the Government, and think their contention is quite a fair one in protecting the opium farmer in his monopoly. Opium is a subject of a very technical nature and one is naturally averse to giving an opinion about the inner workings of it. At the same time I think there are certain principles on which I fail to agree with Dr. Ho Kai and Mr. Pollock. It has been up to the present moment entirely a lawyer's battle. Into that battle I only enter with diffidence. At the same time it seems to me there are other aspects beside the strictly legal ones. I do not agree with Dr. Ho Kai and Mr. Pollock that the words of the Prepared Opium Ordinance settle the question altogether. The Ordinance lays down that prepared opium is that which has been subjected to artificial heat. You go a little further. What is artificial heat? It seems to me it is a reasonable contention to say that you cannot make opium into a pill without subjecting it to some heat, and it seems to me that it is heat other than that generated by the opium itself that must be used; I do not think these pills can come into being in the natural way. The legal aspect of it will leave you lawyers to fight out. There is one point that seems odd and that is to find that in which there are 83 places which deal in opium. I thought there was only one. In that case we may have a thousand apparently. It is an unfair thing for these petitions to come here and say that those people who buy the pills are those who seek relief from the opium habit. Dr. Ho Kai has informed us that the opium farmer cannot deal in raw opium. Is it then bought at auctions here or is it brought into Hongkong? The Attorney-General's terms may appear harsh, but still this opium must be bought in clandestinely.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—It is brought in illicitly, secretly.

His EXCELLENCE.—If one can have it in his possession,

Hon. Mr. STEWART.—The opium does not grow here so it must be brought in, and if so that privilege of the farmer is being infringed. With regard to these small shops where the opium traffic is carried on, I think if they were allowed to multiply they would do the Colony a great deal of harm. The biggest mistake the Government could commit would be not to keep as much control as possible over that objectionable habit. The opium farmer in this case was, I think, acting quite within his rights in seeking protection from these small dealers. I understand the Government took steps to counteract the morphine habit. This Bill to-day is merely an application of the same principle. On moral grounds and on the general principle of fairness I think we should protect the opium farmer.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—Your Excellency, I have nothing to withdraw of what I said. What I have said is that owing to the illicit introduction of opium into this Colony and the preparation thereof in the Colony and owing to the difficulty of prevention, from the faulty language in the definition, the opium farmer requires that protection which an Ordinance alone can give him; that is the short and long of it. I have not come here with it prejudiced, nor has the Government prejudged it. What the hon. member meant was that the Government had well considered the matter. We were forced to take this action because it was brought to the notice of this Council that in the matter of the introduction of opium into Hongkong the spirit of the Ordinance could be infringed if not the letter. The intention was to give the opium farmer in return for a large sum of money paid into the revenue an exclusive monopoly. Once this was done, I think, acting quite within his rights, he has an unconscious bias after he has been considering it professionally to those who object to this matter, and it may be that it will not be safe for us to follow blind-led where we should otherwise be prepared to go, if they were sure he was absolutely unbiased in the matter. I need hardly point out that it is a general principle of law which is generally followed out by courts of law that so far as possible—so chary are our courts of depriving anybody of rights without compensation—an Ordinance or a statute should be construed in such a way as not to take away a man's rights without his receiving compensation. The courts always lean towards such construing of an Ordinance. They recognise that it is *prima facie* unjust to take away a man's business arbitrarily without compensation, and yet the Government proposes to take away these people's rights without giving them any compensation whatsoever. That, as Dr. Ho Kai pointed out, is a very important principle; the taking away of people's rights is very unjust and unfair, and a point upon which hon. members of Council should take a firm stand. It is radically unjust to take away people's rights in this way and members of Council should not be parties to it. It is most unsatisfactory that all we should have to go upon in coming to a decision on this matter is merely the report of a Government officer which is not before us at all. The Attorney-General stated that the opium farmer could come here to-day and say, "I stand upon my legal rights and demand nothing but justice." Language like that sounds very beautiful from the opium farmer to us, but he does not stand upon his legal rights; the drawback is that that is not correct. What he says is, "I find I have not sufficient rights; I want to be protected and I want sufficient legislation to support me." He does not stand upon his present legal rights at all. He wants the Government to alter the Ordinance, to extend his rights and privileges by law, and as showing that the farmer feels the weakness of his position, and that his legal advisers know it also, one has only to consider those who were referred to by the Attorney-General. The farmer in return for the business of the dealers in opium wine and pills which the Attorney-General admits to be large in the aggregate—for getting all this into his pocket he is prepared to do what I would do in his place—to dole out certain concessions. He does not stand upon his rights but wants his rights altered, and as the return for extending his rights at the expense of other people he does out some concession. That, sir, is his position. I do not know that there is any other point I should refer to, but it shows the disadvantage an unofficial is under when he comes here, for he finds the Government has prejudiced the whole question.

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businesses that they lost? Can it be denied that various dealers in spirituous liquors have of late owing to the large increase in the price of licences closed their businesses? Or will anyone contend that they should be compensated because they could no longer take a lease? How did the opium farm ever come into existence? Did hon. members know that in days gone by the preparation of and dealing in opium was licensed out to licencees, and this Government for its own objects wanting to control the traffic in opium, swept away all these licencees and put the licence in the hands of one man. Did anyone claim at the time that these licences whose businesses had been swept away should have been compensated? But by reclaiming the right to place this monopoly in the hands of one man to the exclusion of all others, I say, that careful investigation shows that these petitioners, those of them who have been dealing in these pills have got no real claim for compensation. They were licencees for three years, from 1895 till 1898, to deal in these pills. They admitted that when they were licensed they were trafficking in opium, subsequently, owing to the smallness of their businesses, the opium farmer considered it not necessary to license them. Now the price for smoking opium has been enormously raised owing to the large increase in the fees, and the Government find that their business had no doubt increased, at the same time the sale of the opium farmer's opium has decreased. If we believe that the trade of these dealers in pills and opium has increased because people wish to avoid the opium habit there might be something in their cry. But this is what we find written in one of the leading Chinese newspapers in an article against this very Bill. This shows, I think, what the real business of these opium pill dealers has been of late. Swallowing anti-opium pills is more handy than smoking opium with lamp and pipe. Opium smokers who happen to be travelling or in mourning or watched by their parents or relatives prefer to use anti-opium pills as a substitute for opium. Prices for prepared opium will undoubtedly be raised on account of the fee for the opium monopoly being considerably increased. Cooles of the poorer class who cannot afford to smoke opium will be compelled to use anti-pills instead. If they cannot obtain anti-opium pills they will leave the Colony and the result will be a lack of opium labour in the Colony. That is the way the man in the street looks at this Bill, a very different light indeed from that in which the view has been presented to us. I find on investigation that the sale of opium pills in the Colony is about 9,000 bottles a year. Large bottles are sold at 25 cents and small ones at 11 cents. If we strike an average we will see that the sales amount to between \$2000 and \$3000 per annum, and this is the enormous and valuable trade that we are accused of interfering with. Gentlemen the only point to my mind that has been made to-day was perhaps that of the wholesale dealers of these pills who deal in them for the purpose of export. There are such dealers, and no doubt their trade is very much larger than that of the retail dealers who are simply trying to cut into the monopoly of the opium farmer. I do not know whether the Government would be able to arrange anything with the farmer in this case was, I think, acting quite within his rights in seeking protection from these small dealers. I understand the Government took steps to counteract the morphine habit. This Bill to-day is merely an application of the same principle. On moral grounds and on the general principle of fairness I think we should protect the opium farmer.

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The second reading was accordingly carried.

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